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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/849,576	05/19/2004	Attila Peter Kiraly	2003P10074 US01	6334
7590	11/16/2005			EXAMINER BRUCE, DAVID VERNON
Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 170 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830			ART UNIT 2882	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EX

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/849,576	KIRALY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David V. Bruce	2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 30 and 31 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 9, 13-15, 19, 23-25 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-8, 10-12, 16-18, 20, 22, 26 and 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 May 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20050131</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is longer than 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 9, 13-15, 19, 23-25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bick *et al.* US 5,452,367 A. Bick *et al.* shows all of the features of the instant invention including x-ray or fluoroscopic medical image segmenting, distance map calculation, gradient calculation, and protrusion (nipple) detection (abstract; figure 1, column 2 lines 10-31, column 3 lines 32-54, and column 4 line 38 - column 6 line 63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11, 21, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bick *et al.* US 5,452,367 A. Bick *et al.* shows all of the features of the instant invention except for the detection of nodules, lesions, polyps, pre-cancerous growths, or cancerous growths. Bick

et al. suggests the detection of nodules, lesions, and pre-cancerous growths (figure 9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the contour enhanced image for abnormality detection as suggested by Bick *et al.* motivated by the desire to prescreen mammograms to reduce the time necessary for examination by a radiologist.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 5-8, 10-12, 16-18, 20, 22, 26, and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Claims 30 and 31 are allowed.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: in the apparatus and method as claimed, claims 5-8, 10, 16-18, 20, 30 and 31 address sphere, hemisphere, or polyp detection, and claims 12, 22, 26, and 29 address filtering false positive responses. These features are neither shown nor fairly suggested in the prior art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David V. Bruce whose telephone number is (571) 272-2487. The examiner can normally be reached on M - Th and alt Fri 8:00 - 4:30 subject to I-Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2882

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David V Bruce
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2882

dvb